Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

*The purpose of this document is to provide regular updates to Alaskan educators and members of the public about the implementation of the new Alaska assessment for grades 3-10, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). New information will be **bolded** and the date of the document will be in both the title and the footer as well as summarized on the last page. Contact elizabeth.davis@alaska.gov for more information or visit www.akassessments.org.*

Components of the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Program

Technology Practice Test: The practice test will be available in September 2014. The focus of the practice test is to give students experience with the online assessment technology. There will be three practice tests: grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-10. Each practice test will have traditional item types, such as multiple choice, and items that utilize technology-enhanced items (TE's), such as dropdown menus or drawing lines. Students, teachers, and members of the community have unlimited access to the practice test.

Testlets, *Assessments for Learning*: The testlets are short, 8-10 item tests available to teachers to use to inform their instruction. These optional, no-stakes assessment tools are designed to give teachers information on student progress on individual standards. Teachers select which testlets to give to students and when to administer them. The testlets will be available beginning in January 2015. Student and teacher rosters must be uploaded into the KITE Educator Portal for teachers to access the Testlets.

Interim Benchmark Assessment: The optional interim assessment will be available to districts beginning in **fall 2016**. The purpose of the interim assessment is to provide information on students' progress on grade-level standards in English language arts and math. The assessments are given twice per year, in fall and winter. AMP Interim will be scored on the same scale as the summative. **The purpose of the Interim assessment is to provide teachers with information to guide instruction. This is one year later than our previous implementation schedule. This change was made to allow time for our test developer to design an assessment that can be used effectively to guide instruction for teachers. The interim assessment will not be approved by the commissioner for use in educator evaluation; it is not designed for this purpose.**

Summative Assessment: The summative assessment will have two subtests, English language arts and mathematics. The summative assessments will have between 70-75 questions per content area (ELA & math) delivered in blocks. Each assessment will start with a block of 25 items, followed by three blocks of 15 items. Although the assessment is not timed, each subtest will take most students between two and three hours. The essay (administered as a field test in 2016) will take most students 30-45 minutes.

The summative assessment will be rolled out in two phases.

- The assessment will be fixed form for the first two years. After two years, Alaska will have enough items to have an adaptive assessment; adaptive assessments adjust in difficulty based on student performance, unlike fixed form assessments. Adaptive assessments provide greater score precision and provide an assessment experience for students that is "a good fit."

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

- Items that require keyboarding (constructed response short answer and essay items) and listening items will also be phased in over the next two years.

Scoring: Students will receive scores from 1-4, with 1 being the lowest score and 4 being the highest. The score of 3 is the "meets standard" score. Score descriptions, called Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs), were reviewed by Alaskan educators on September 17, 2014. These revised drafts will be available for teachers in January. Final versions of the ALDs will not be published until after the State Board of Education approves the standard setting cut scores and the ALDs; these will be brought before the board and available for public comment following the July standard setting event.

Technology: Most students will take the computer-based assessment. EED and the Achievement & Assessment Institute (AAI) will work with schools in the summer and fall of 2014 to assist them in getting ready for the online delivery. AMP is administered using a test delivery engine called KITE. It can be installed on desktops, laptops, and tablets. EED strongly recommends that districts download the KITE Client on all district devices no later than October 31, 2014. Once the KITE Client is open all other applications on the device are inaccessible, making the test administration secure. The Chromebook app and the iPad app are both available now in the Chrome Web Store and the App Store.

Support for Computer-based Administration of AMP: AAI's Technology Support Team will work with districts that may have technological capacity challenges. Districts can contact the help desk at amp_support@ku.edu or by calling, toll free, 855-277-9752. Additionally, AAI has hired Alaskan technology liaisons who will provide additional virtual and on-site assistance to districts and schools. Districts access this assistance through the help desk.

Local Caching System: AMP utilizes a Local Caching System (LCS). An LCS is an application that is loaded onto a laptop or desktop; the LCS enables testing to continue if there is minimal bandwidth. It can be used at the district, school, or classroom level.

Accessibility and Accommodations: Students will have access to a greater variety of accessibility tools as part of the computer-based assessment system. These tools are described in detail in the Participation Guidelines. Universal Tools are for all students, are accessible at all times, and include: highlighter, striker, eraser, tags, guideline, search, calculators on portions of the test, and text-to-speech for directions. Accessibility Tools are available to students with any type of documented need; these tools include auditory calming, magnification, masking, and text-to-speech on the math portion of the test for items, answer choices, and graphics. Accommodation Tools are available to students with disabilities and students who are English language learners. The embedded Accommodation Tools in AMP include color contrast, text-to-speech on ELA items and answer choices (this does not include ELA passages), and one or two switch scanning.

Information for families and communities: EED is working with AAI to develop a variety of materials and other methods to communicate to students, families, and communities about the new assessment. Brochures for educators and for families were mailed to schools in August and are also be available on the EED website under the yellow Parents & Community star.

Opportunities for Educator Involvement: 30 educators participated in two passage writing workshops this summer, held in partnership with UAF and UAS. Passages written during these workshops will be used for the assessment, and some writers will be commissioned to write additional passages. More workshops are planned for the summer of 2015. In addition, Alaskan educators reviewed the Technology Practice Test in July and provided valuable feedback to AAI for bias and sensitivity as well as user experience. Over 900 educators are currently in the AMP database and are participating in panels for the review of items for the assessment. To apply complete the application at http://bit.ly/amp_reviews_2014. Reviews are currently scheduled for: August 7 – 13, August 27 – September 2, October 8 – 14, and November 18 – 24.

ACRONYMS	
AAI	Achievement & Assessment Institute
ALD	Achievement Level Descriptor
AMP	Alaska Measures of Progress
CBA	Computer-based Assessment
LCS	Local Caching System
TE	Technology-Enhanced item
TPT	Technology Practice Test
GLOSSARY	
Achievement Level Descriptors	Achievement level descriptors (ALDs) are a means of describing performance on a standardized test in terms of levels or categories of performance.
Adaptive Assessment	Assessments adjust in difficulty based on student performance, unlike fixed form assessments. Adaptive assessments provide greater score precision and provide an assessment experience for students that is "a good fit."
Constructed Response Item	Items that require students to keyboard an answer, such as a short answer or essay question.
Fixed Form Assessment	A static assessment that does not adjust to student performance during testing.
Item (test item)	The question and answer choices.
KITE	Test Delivery Engine for the AMP assessments.
Technology Enhanced Item (TE)	Items other than standard multiple-choice.
Technology Practice Test	Short tests focused on providing students with experience in the technology-enhanced item types and the computer-based testing experience.

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

The AMP Assessment Window: In 2015, the window will be five weeks long: Monday, March 30 – Friday, May 1. Unlike the paper/pencil SBAs, not all students in a district will take the computer-based assessment on the same days.

The following chart shows the designated testing weeks for each grade level. Two options are given. Option A is designed to accommodate larger elementary/middle/high schools with single-grade classrooms; option B is designed to accommodate smaller K-12 schools.

However, districts are not restricted to either option; districts may choose to test students earlier than the designated weeks, but may not delay testing for grades beyond the "finish week" and may not test earlier than March 30, 2015. For example, a school may test grades 3-8 in week 1. A school may not test grade 3 after week 2. EED strongly recommends districts test all students as early as possible within the window. Examples for testing schedules are being developed and will be available in the fall of 2014.

	AMP Option A		AMP Option B
Week 1 March 30-April 3	Begin Grade 3, Grade 7		
Week 2 April 6-10	Begin Grade 4, Grade 8	Finish Grade 3, Grade 7	Begin and finish Grade 3,4,7,8
Week 3 April 13-17	Begin Grade 5, Grade 9	Finish Grade 4, Grade 8	Begin and finish Grades 5,6,9,10
Week 4 April 20-24	Begin Grade 6, Grade 10	Finish Grade 5, Grade 9	
Week 5 April 27-May 1		Finish Grade 6, Grade 10	

Science: The Alaska science content standards have not been revised and there is currently no date for when this revision may happen. The science test for grades 4, 8, and 10 is not changing at this time. The paper/pencil science assessment in 2015 will continue to be managed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Districts must administer the science test March 30 – April 10, 2015. All students of the same grade level must take the science assessment on the same day. Science will be administered as part of our computer-based assessment beginning in spring 2016; it will assess our current science content standards.

AMP paper/pencil: Approved schools will administer the paper/pencil AMP on district-designated days within April 13-24, 2015**.** If more than one school in a district is approved for paper/pencil administration, they <u>must</u> administer the assessment on the same two days. Students must take the same portions of the assessment on the same day (e.g., all students must take the first math section on the same day).

	Science paper/pencil grades 4,8,10	*AMP paper/pencil Approved schools only*
Week 1 March 30-April 3	Districts designate one testing day per grade in this window (all three grades may test on the same day).	
Week 2 April 6-10		
Week 3 April 13-17		*Approved schools will designate 2 testing days for all students within this window.*
Week 4 April 20-24		
Week 5 April 27-May 1		

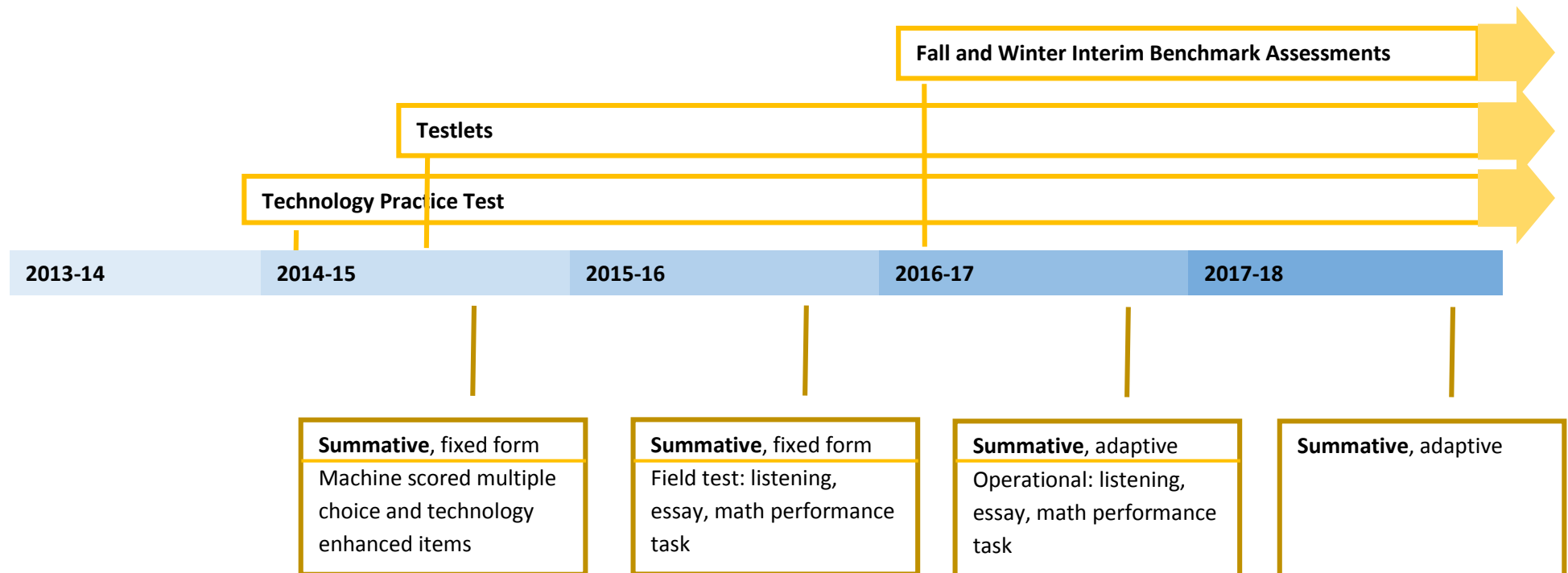# Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

Assessment Activities Timeline (2014-15)

- July 2014: Practice Test item remote-review (bias and sensitivity)
- Summer & Fall 2014: Item reviews with Alaskan Educators begin; ongoing
- August 2014: AMP rollout activities begin; ongoing through year
- September 2014: Technology Practice Test available; will be available throughout year
- September 17: Achievement Level Descriptor Review Meeting
- November 10-11; February 25-27: District Test Coordinator Trainings
- January 2015: Testlets available
- March 30 – May 1 2015: AMP online test window
- July 7- 10, 2015: Standard Setting Meeting for 2015 assessment

Assessment Development Timeline

Fall and Winter Interim Benchmark Assessments

Testlets

Technology Practice Test

| 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |

Summative, fixed form
Machine scored multiple choice and technology enhanced items

Summative, fixed form
Field test: listening, essay, math performance task

Summative, adaptive
Operational: listening, essay, math performance task

Summative, adaptive

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

11/04/2014 UPDATES SUMMARY

1. **The interim assessment will be implemented in the fall of 2016 instead of the fall of 2015. This is to allow time for our test developer to design an assessment that can be used effectively to guide instruction for teachers. The interim assessment will not be approved by the commissioner for use in educator evaluation; it is not designed for this purpose.**

2. **Accessibility and Accommodations: Students will have access to a greater variety of accessibility tools as part of the computer-based assessment system. These tools are described in detail in the Participation Guidelines. Universal Tools are for all students, are accessible at all times, and include: highlighter, striker, eraser, tags, guideline, search, calculators on portions of the test, and text-to-speech for directions. Accessibility Tools are available to students with any type of documented need; these tools include auditory calming, magnification, masking, and text-to-speech on the math portion of the test for items, answer choices, and graphics. Accommodation Tools are available to students with disabilities and students who are English language learners. The embedded Accommodation Tools in AMP include color contrast, text-to-speech on ELA items and answer choices (this does not include ELA passages), and one or two switch scanning. PLEASE NOTE: this is a change from previous statements. ELA text-to-speech is an Accommodation Tool, not an Accessibility Tool.**

10/13/2014 UPDATES SUMMARY

1. The Interim Benchmark Assessment will be a fixed form until 2017 at which time it will be adaptive, like the summative.

2. Pending approval by the Commissioner, the AMP assessment will be designed to meet the requirements for educator evaluation regulations.

3. Each AMP subtest will take most students between two and three hours. The essay (administered as a field test in 2016) will take most students 30-45 minutes.

4. Draft Achievement Level Descriptors were reviewed by Alaska educators on September 17, 2014. Revised drafts will be available for teachers in January 2015. They will be brought before the SBOE and available for public comment in July 2015. Pending approval, final versions will be published, along with standard setting cut scores, in September 2015.

5. EED strongly recommends districts download the KITE Client on all district devices not later than October 31, 2014.

6. Chromebook and iPad apps are now both available via the Chrome Web Store and App Store.

7. AAI has hired Alaskan technology liaisons who will provide additional virtual and on-site assistance to districts and schools. Districts can access this assistance through the help desk.

8. AMP brochures for educators and families were mailed to schools in August and are also available on the EED website under the yellow Parents & Community star.

9. Over 900 Alaska educators are currently in the AMP database and are participating in panels for the review of items for the assessment. To apply complete the application at http://bit.ly/amp_reviews_2014. Reviews are currently scheduled for August 7 – 13, August 27 – September 2, October 8 – 14, and November 18 – 24.

10. Alaska's science content standards have not been revised. There is currently no date when a revision may happen. Science will be administered as part of our computer-based assessments beginning in spring 2016 and will assess the current science content standards.